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0010-1045-0

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

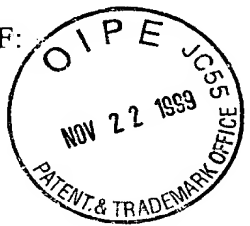
IN RE APPLICATION OF:

HIROSHI IZUI, ET. AL.

SERIAL NO: 09/419,611

FILED: OCTOBER 18, 1999

FOR: L-GLUTAMIC ACID
PRODUCING BACTERIUM AND
PROCESS FOR PRODUCING
L-GLUTAMIC ACID



: ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to the examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application
as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, line 22, replace "of" with --genus--.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

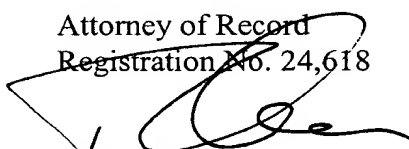
The specification has been amended to correct an informal error. The amendment is supported by the specification as originally filed, for example at page 2, line 3. No new matter is believed to be introduced by entry of this amendment. Entry and favorable reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in
condition for examination on the merits, and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

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